

REMARKS

Claims 4-7, 12-15, 20-23 and 28-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 12, 20 and 28 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of their base claims. Claims 1, 3, 8-11, 16-19, 24-27, 32, 33 and 35 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein and do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

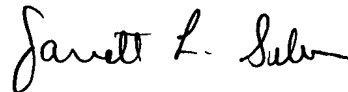
Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 4-7, 12-15, 20-23 and 28-31. Claims 4, 12, 20 and 28 are rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 8, 9, 18, 24, 25 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by JP 2002-185770 to Masatoshi; rejects claims 1, 3, 8-11, 18, 19, 24-27 and 35 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,701,369 to Moon et al. (hereinafter "Moon") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,416,856 to Jacobs et al. (hereinafter "Jacobs"); rejects claims 16, 17, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon, in view of Jacobs, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,002,794 to Bonneau et al. (hereinafter "Bonneau"). The cancellation of claims 1, 3, 8-11, 16-19, 24-27, 32, 33 and 35 renders the rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 4-7, 12-15, 20-23 and 28-31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JZS/jzs

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 4, 2008

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